

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer,
wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel,
~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~having~~ comprising at least one engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge,
wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other,
wherein the matching sets are shaped and located such that a fitting structure between one pair of adjacent ink cartridges and a fitting structure between another pair of adjacent ink cartridges are different in form,
wherein the ink cartridges respectively comprise ink supply ports,
wherein the cartridge accommodating portion comprises ink supply needles,
wherein each of the ink supply needles corresponds to one of the ink supply ports,

wherein the ink supply needles are inserted into the ink supply ports in an insertion direction when the ink cartridges are attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein each matching set is shaped to permit the adjacent ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned.

2. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein each matching set has a different shape.

3. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer,
wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel,

~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~having~~ comprising at least one engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge,

wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other,

wherein the matching sets are shaped and located such that a fitting structure between one pair of adjacent ink cartridges and a fitting structure between another pair of adjacent ink cartridges are different in form,

wherein one engaging portion of each matching set is a projection and the other is a recess, and

wherein the projection of one of the matching sets has a different shape than the projection of another one of the matching sets.

4. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein each engaging portion extends in a direction parallel with a direction in which the associated ink cartridge is moved for attaching the ink cartridge to the cartridge accommodating portion.

5. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein each matching set allows the associated two ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction parallel with a direction in which the ink cartridges are moved for attaching the ink cartridges to the cartridge accommodating portion.

6. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer,
wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel,
~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~having~~ comprising at least one engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge,

wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other,

wherein the matching sets are shaped and located such that a fitting structure between one pair of adjacent ink cartridges and a fitting structure between another pair of adjacent ink cartridges are different in form,

wherein each ink cartridge includes a main body and a sub body connected to the main body, and each engaging portion is formed in only the sub body of the associated ink cartridge.

7. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the cartridge accommodating portion has a plurality of connecting members, wherein each ink cartridge includes a contact that contacts one of the connecting members when the ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion.

8. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 7, wherein each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges.

9. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 7, wherein both of the contacts of a first pair of adjacent ink cartridges contact a first one of the plurality of connecting members.

10. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer,
wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel,

~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~having~~ comprising at least one engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge,

wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other,

wherein each matching set is formed only between predetermined two adjacent ink cartridges such that the ink cartridges are connected together as aligned in a predetermined order,

wherein the ink cartridges respectively comprise ink supply ports,

wherein the cartridge accommodating portion comprises ink supply needles,

wherein each of the ink supply needles corresponds to one of the ink supply ports,

wherein the ink supply needles are inserted into the ink supply ports in an insertion direction when the ink cartridges are attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein each matching set is shaped to permit the adjacent ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned.

11. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein each matching set has a different shape.

12. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein one engaging portion of each matching set is a projection and the other is a recess, and

wherein the projection of one of the matching sets has a different shape than the projection of another one of the matching sets.

13. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein each engaging portion extends in a direction parallel with a direction in which the associated ink cartridge is moved for attaching the ink cartridge to the cartridge accommodating portion.

14. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein each matching set allows the associated two ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction parallel with a direction in which the ink cartridges are moved for attaching the ink cartridges to the cartridge accommodating portion.

15. (original): The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the cartridge accommodating portion has a plurality of connecting members, wherein each ink cartridge includes a contact that contacts one of the connecting members when the ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges.

16. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 15, wherein both of the contacts of a first pair of adjacent ink cartridges contact a first one of the plurality of connecting members.

17. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, wherein ~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~includes~~ comprises a contact that contacts one of connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when

~~the~~ said ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and wherein ~~each~~ said contact is located offset from the middle of ~~the associated~~ said ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said contact ~~of each ink cartridge~~ is contained on an outside surface of ~~the~~ said ink cartridge, said outside surface facing away from all other surfaces of said ink cartridge, and

wherein the outside surface of ~~the~~ said ink cartridge is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion.

18. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 17 , wherein both of the contacts of a first pair of adjacent ink cartridges contact a first one of the connecting members.

19. (previously presented): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion; and

a plurality of ink cartridges,

wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel,

each ink cartridge having at least one engaging portion formed at a side of the ink cartridge that faces an adjacent ink cartridge,

wherein a set of the opposed engaging portions of each pair of adjacent ink cartridges forms a matching set in which the engaging portions engage with each other to position the adjacent ink cartridges with respect to each other,

wherein the matching sets are shaped and located such that a fitting structure between one pair of adjacent ink cartridges and a fitting structure between another pair of adjacent ink cartridges are different in form,

wherein the ink cartridges respectively comprise ink supply ports,

wherein the cartridge accommodating portion comprises ink supply needles,

wherein each of the ink supply needles corresponds to one of the ink supply ports,

wherein the ink supply needles are inserted into the ink supply ports in an insertion direction when the ink cartridges are attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein each matching set is shaped to permit the adjacent ink cartridges to move relative with each other in a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned.

20. (currently amended): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

a contact, which is formed on an outside surface of each ink cartridge, said outside surface facing away from all other surfaces of said ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink

cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein the side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion.

21. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 6, wherein the main bodies of each of the ink cartridges have substantially the same shape.

22. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 9, wherein both of the contacts of a second pair of adjacent ink cartridges do not contact the first one of the plurality of connecting members.

23. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 16, wherein both of the contacts of a second pair of adjacent ink cartridges do not contact the first one of the plurality of connecting members.

24. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 18, wherein both of the contacts of a second pair of adjacent ink cartridges do not contact the first one of the connecting members.

25. (previously presented): An ink cartridge system for an inkjet printer, comprising:

a first ink cartridge, wherein a first engaging portion is located at a first side of the first ink cartridge;

a second ink cartridge, wherein a second engaging portion is located at a first side of the second ink cartridge and engages the first engaging portion and wherein a third engaging portion is located at a second side of the second ink cartridge; and

a third ink cartridge, wherein a fourth engaging portion is located at a first side of the third ink cartridge and engages the third engaging portion,

wherein a size of the first engaging portion substantially equals a size of the second engaging portion,

wherein a size of the third engaging portion substantially equals a size of the fourth engaging portion, and

wherein the size of the second engaging portion is substantially different than the size of the third engaging portion.

26. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the size of the second engaging portion is larger than the size of the third engaging portion.

27. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the size of the second engaging portion is smaller than the size of the third engaging portion.

28. (previously presented): An ink cartridge system for an inkjet printer, comprising:

a first ink cartridge, wherein a first engaging portion is located at a first side of the first ink cartridge;

a second ink cartridge, wherein a second engaging portion is located at a first side of the second ink cartridge and engages the first engaging portion and wherein a third engaging portion is located at a second side of the second ink cartridge; and

a third ink cartridge, wherein a fourth engaging portion is located at a first side of the third ink cartridge and engages the third engaging portion,

wherein the first, second, and third ink cartridges are stacked in a first direction when the first engaging portion engages the second engaging portion and when the third engaging portion engages the fourth engaging portion, and

wherein a dimension of the first engaging portion in a second direction substantially equals a dimension of the second engaging portion in the second direction,

wherein a dimension of the third engaging portion in the second direction substantially equals a dimension of the fourth engaging portion in the second direction,

wherein the dimension of the second engaging portion in the second direction is substantially different than the dimension of the third engaging portion in the second direction, and

wherein the second direction is substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

29. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the dimension of the second engaging portion in the second direction is larger than the dimension of the third engaging portion in the second direction.

30. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the dimension of the second engaging portion in the second direction is smaller than the dimension of the third engaging portion in the second direction.

31. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 29, wherein a dimension of the first ink cartridge in the first direction is different than a dimension of the second ink cartridge in the first direction.

32. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the dimension of the first ink cartridge in the first direction is greater than the dimension of the second ink cartridge in the first direction.

33. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 32, wherein the dimension of the second ink cartridge in the first direction is greater than a dimension of the third ink cartridge in the first direction.

34. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 30, wherein a dimension of the first ink cartridge in the first direction is different than a dimension of the second ink cartridge in the first direction.

35. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the dimension of the first ink cartridge in the first direction is greater than the dimension of the second ink cartridge in the first direction.

36. (previously presented): The ink cartridge system as claimed in claim 35, wherein the dimension of the second ink cartridge in the first direction is greater than a dimension of the third ink cartridge in the first direction.

37. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, wherein ~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~includes~~ comprises a contact that contacts one of connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when ~~the~~ said ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and wherein ~~each~~ said contact is located offset from the middle of ~~the associated~~ said ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said contact ~~of each ink cartridge~~ is contained on a side surface of ~~the~~ said ink cartridge, said side surface facing away from all other surfaces of said ink cartridge, and

wherein the side surface of ~~the~~ said ink cartridge is substantially parallel to the aligning direction of the ink cartridges.

38. (currently amended): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

a contact, which is formed on each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which said ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion, said side surface being outside of said ink cartridges when said ink cartridges are attached to said cartridge accommodating portion so that said side surface does not protrude into said ink cartridges, and

wherein the side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion is substantially parallel to the aligning direction of the ink cartridges.

39. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, wherein ~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~includes~~ comprises contact

that contacts one of connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when the ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and wherein ~~each~~ said contact is and a contact of one of the other ink cartridges are located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges,

wherein both of the contacts of a first pair of adjacent ink cartridges contact a first one of the connecting members.

40. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 39, wherein both of the contacts of a second pair of adjacent ink cartridges do not contact the first one of the connecting members.

41. (previously presented): The ink cartridge according to claim 37, wherein the side surface of each ink cartridge is an outside surface of the ink cartridge.

42. (previously presented): The inkjet printer according to claim 38, wherein each contact is formed on an outside surface of the associated ink cartridge.

43. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, wherein ~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~includes~~ comprises a contact that contacts one of connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when ~~the~~ said ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and wherein ~~each~~ said contact is located offset from the middle of ~~the associated~~ said ink cartridge in an aligning

direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said contact ~~of each ink cartridge~~ is contained on a side surface of ~~the~~ said ink cartridge such that ~~both of the contacts of a pair of~~ said contact and a contact of an adjacent ink cartridges cartridge are located in a single plane when the ink cartridges are attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein the side surface of ~~the~~ said ink cartridge is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion.

44. (currently amended): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

a contact, which is formed on each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion,

wherein the side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein both of the contacts of a pair of adjacent ink cartridges are located in a single plane when the ink cartridges are attached to the cartridge accommodating portion.

45. (currently amended): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, wherein ~~each~~ said ink cartridge ~~includes~~ comprises a contact that contacts one of connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when ~~the~~ said ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and wherein ~~each~~ said contact is located offset from the middle of the ~~associated~~ ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said contact ~~of each ink cartridge~~ is contained on a side surface of the ink cartridge, such that ~~both of the contacts of a pair of~~ said contact and a contact of an adjacent ink ~~cartridges~~ cartridge are located in a single plane when the ink cartridges are attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein the side surface of ~~the~~ said ink cartridge is substantially parallel to the aligning direction of the ink cartridges.

46. (currently amended): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

a contact, which is formed on each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion,

wherein the side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion is substantially parallel to the aligning direction of the ink cartridges, and

wherein both of the contacts of a pair of adjacent ink cartridges are located in a single plane when the ink cartridges are attached to the cartridge accommodating portion.

47. (new): An ink cartridge for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink cartridge is one of ink cartridges that are detachably attached to a cartridge accommodating portion of the inkjet printer as aligned in parallel, wherein said ink cartridge comprises a contact that contacts one of connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion when said ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and wherein said contact is located offset from the middle of said ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said contact is contained on an outside surface of said ink cartridge, and

wherein said outside surface of said ink cartridge is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion, and said outside surface of said ink cartridge is also substantially parallel to said aligning direction.

48. (new): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

a contact, which is formed on an outside surface of each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the

associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion, and

wherein said side surface of said cartridge accommodating portion is substantially parallel to an insertion direction in which said ink cartridge is inserted into said cartridge accommodating portion, and said side surface of said cartridge accommodating portion is also substantially parallel to said aligning direction.

49. (new): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

a contact, which is formed on an outside surface of each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion,

wherein a first ink cartridge has a first contact and a second ink cartridge, adjacent to said first ink cartridge, has a second contact, such that no contacts exist between said first contact and said second contact,

wherein a third ink cartridge has a third contact and a fourth ink cartridge, adjacent to said third ink cartridge, has a fourth contact, such that no contacts exist between said third contact and said fourth contact, and

wherein a distance between said first contact and said second contact is different than a distance between said third contact and said fourth contact.

50. (new): An inkjet printer, comprising:

a cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of connecting members, which are formed in the cartridge accommodating portion;

a plurality of ink cartridges, wherein the ink cartridges are detachably attached to the cartridge accommodating portion as aligned in parallel; and

a contact, which is formed on an outside surface of each ink cartridge, wherein each contact contacts one of the connecting members when the associated ink cartridge is attached to the cartridge accommodating portion, and each contact is located offset from the middle of the

associated ink cartridge in an aligning direction of the ink cartridges, said aligning direction being a direction in which the ink cartridges are aligned with each other,

wherein said one of said connecting members formed in the cartridge accommodating portion is contained on a side surface of the cartridge accommodating portion,

wherein a first ink cartridge has a first contact, a second ink cartridge has a second contact and a third ink cartridge has a third contact, such that no contacts exists between said first contact and said second contact, and between said second contact and said third contact, and

wherein a distance between said first contact and said second contact is different than a distance between said second contact and said third contact.